

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 847 – HB 1150

February 20, 2019

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands the kinship foster care program to include placement of children with fictive kin. Defines “fictive kin” as a person who is not related by birth, adoption, or marriage to a child and who has significant and close personal or emotional ties with the child or child’s family prior to the child’s placement with the person. Authorizes fictive kin participating in kinship foster care program to receive foster care payments and benefits.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-2-414(b)(2), the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) is required to attempt to place a child in the care, custody or guardianship of the DCS with a relative for kinship foster care.
- A relative who is approved by the DCS to provide foster care services is required to complete foster parent training, a home study, and extensive background checks to become an approved foster home.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Children’s Services (DCS), if no relative is willing or able to provide foster care services for the child, the DCS will next consider placement of a child with fictive kin.
- Fictive kin are required to complete foster parent training, a home study, and extensive background checks to become an approved foster home, just as any other potential foster parent.
- Both relative and non-relative caregivers are provided the same foster care payments and benefits as they both must complete the same criteria to become an approved foster home.
- Passage of the proposed legislation will have no effect on the policies or procedures of the DCS as the provisions of the legislation are consistent to current DCS practice; therefore, any fiscal impact to DCS is not significant.

SB 847 – HB 1150

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/vlh